

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6304

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0326

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECRP, LU

SUBJ: CERP 0002: HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 046858

1. PART I -- APPRAISAL OF POLITICO-ECONOMIC RELATIONS
NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS POST.

2. PART II -- LOCAL COMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP
A. THE OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE LUXEMBOURG COMMUNIST PARTY
(PCL) NUMBERED 510 AT THE MOST RECENT PCL CONGRDSS IN LATE
DECEMBER 1976. THE PRESIDENCY OF THE PCL PASSED FROM THE
AGING DOMINIQUE URBANY TO HIS SON RENE URBANY WHO PROMISED
TO MAINTAIN TRADITIONAL PCL LOYALTY TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE
INFLUENCE OF THE PARTY REMAINED STABLE THROUGHOUT 1977 WHEN
THERE WERE NO NEW ELECTIONS TO TEST THE PCL'S STRENGTH WITH
AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE. THE ONLY
COMMUNIST MAYOR IN LUXEMBOURG, A SENIOR LEADER OF THE PCL,
DIED IN MARCH 1978. HIS MAYORALTY POST OF ESCH-SUR-ALZETTE,
THE SECOND LARGEST AND PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIAL CITY OF LUXEMBOURG
WILL PROBABLY
PASS TO A SOCIALIST. RECRUITMENT EFFORTS OF THE PCL CON-
CNETRATE ON ATTRACTING YOUNG REPLACEMENTS FOR AGING PCL MEM-
BERS. SOME YOUNG PEOPLE MOVE INTO THE PCL WHEN THEIR IN-
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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00326 231607Z

CREASINGLY BOURGEOIS LIVES BECOME INCOMPATIBLE WITH MEMBERSHIP
IN THE LOOSELY ORGANIZED AND VERY SMALL EXTREME LEFT TROTSKYITE
AND MAOIST GROUPS IN LUXEMBOURG.

3. PART III -- DIPLOMATIC, CONSULAR AND TRADE MISSION
RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES
NOT REQUIRED FOR EUROPEAN POSTS.

4. PART IV A CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES

IN MARCH- APRIL 1977 THE SOVIET EMBASSY ORGANIZED A RUSSIAN ICON EXHIBIT IN LUXEMBOURG WHICH ATTRACTED RECORD CROWDS. OTHER MINOR EVENTS INCLUDED THE VISITS OF A SOVIET BICYCLE TEAM(WHICH WAS OUTCLASSED) AND THE BEREZKA DANCE TROUPE. IN CONNECTION WITH THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET REVOLUTION THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER ORGANIZED A FILM FESTIVAL AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE PCL PUBLICIZED THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE SOVIET NATIONAL DAY WHICH, BESIDES THE LARGER THAN USUAL OFFICIAL RECEPTION AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY, ATTENDED BY 600 PERSONS, INCLUDED CONCERTS BY AND RECEPTIONS FOR VISITING SOVIETS. THERE ARE NO UNOFFICIAL SOVIETS SUCH AS STUDENTS IN LUXEMBOURG WHERE THERE IS NO UNIVERSITY. NOT MORE THAN SIX LUXEMBOURGERS IN ALL HAVE EVER STUDIED IN THE SOVIET UNION AND THESE HAVE ALL BEEN SCIONS OF PCL STALWARTS. IN 1977 15 SOVIET TECHNICIANS VISITED LUXEMBOURG STEEL COMPANIES. IN 1977 463 LUXEMBOURGERS VISITED THE SOVIET UNION; 110 OF THESE WERE MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES OF THE UNION DES FEMINES LIBERALES, A LUXEMBOURG COMMUNIST WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION. THIS EMBASSY ISSUED IN 1977 TEN PERCENT MORE MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS (2600) THAN IN 1976 AND THE NUMBER OF LUXEMBOURG VISITORS TO THE U.S. GREATLY EXCEEDED THIS FIGURE BECAUSE LUXEMBOURG TRAVELERS USED MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS GRANTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

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PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00326 231607Z

5. PART IV. B. -- INFORMATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

THE PUSHKIN CULTURAL CENTER WHICH IS OSTENSIBLY DIRECTED BY LUXEMBOURG COMMUNISTS, BUT ACTUALLY CLOSELY CONTROLLED BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY, SPONSORS ART EXHIBITS, CONCERTS, FILMS, LECTURES, PERFORMING TROUPES, AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. ALTHOUGH PRO-SOVIET CULTURAL ACTIVITY IS AIMED AT A WIDE SPECTRUM OF LUXEMBOURG SOCIETY, FEW PERSONS ATTEND THE EVENTS, EXCEPT WHEN WELL KNOWN BALLET TROUPES OR CONCERT ARTISTS PERFORM. THE SOVIETS REGULARLY ACHIEVE GOOD PRESS COVERAGE OF THEIR CULTURAL EVENTS. IN SEPTEMBER 1977 A SOVIET DELEGATION SIGNED FOR EXCHANGE OF MATERIALS AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN MEDIA RELATING TO CULTURE, SCIENCE, TECHNICAL PROGRESS, AND SPORTS. THIS AGREEMENT WILL ASSIST THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SOVIET PROGRAMS ON RADIO TELEVISION LUXEMBOURG (RTL). THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF SOVIET PROGRAMS ON RTL IS MINIMAL COMPARED TO THE NUMBER OF WESTERN PROGRAMS. LOWENSTEIN

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